ding day. Betrothals have often been made when the children are very small and cannot easily be broken. They have, indeed, been almost as binding as marriage. In probably the majority of instances they have been negotiated through go-betweens. As a rule they have been contracts with provisions about property—such as the gifts which are to pass between the two families, and the amount of furniture and clothing which the bride is to bring with her. Usually, too, the gifts from the groom's family have been supposed to pay for the bride's equipment. Not infrequently they have been of the nature of a bride price. A wealthy father may refuse gifts from the groom's family and send his daughter to marriage with property which her husband is to manage but which is to be used toward the support of her children and the unconsumed balance of which is to go to them after her death. In the case of the poor the betrothed girl may go to her future husband's home as a servant, her parents beingpthus relieved of her support. A marriage cannot be contracted between persons of the same surname, even though no blood relationship exists. Provided patronymics are different, a marriage can be entered into between near relatives, as, for example, between a girl and the son of her father's sister. Some types of consanguineous marriages, however, are forbidden. For instance, even distant relatives cannot marry if they belong to different generations. Often two influential families have been allied to each other by marriage generation after generation. Usually parents have attempted to obtain for a son a wife from a family of equal or superior social standing and wealth.

Through marriage the bride becomes a member of her hus-

band's family. She is taken to her husband's home for the wedding ceremony and part of the rite consists in an obeisance by the two before the groom's ancestral tablets. To be sure, the two make a return visit to her home where they do reverence to the tablets of her family's ancestors and soon after the wedding she makes a ceremonial visit to her old home. Her relatives, too, may bring pressure to bear upon her husband's kinf oik if shei^ggj^ with especial injustice. For better or for worse, hqweverT^^Wf is linked with her husband's family. She is especially subject to her husband's mother. While that rule may prove salutary, particularly in view of the immaturity of the bride, her need of